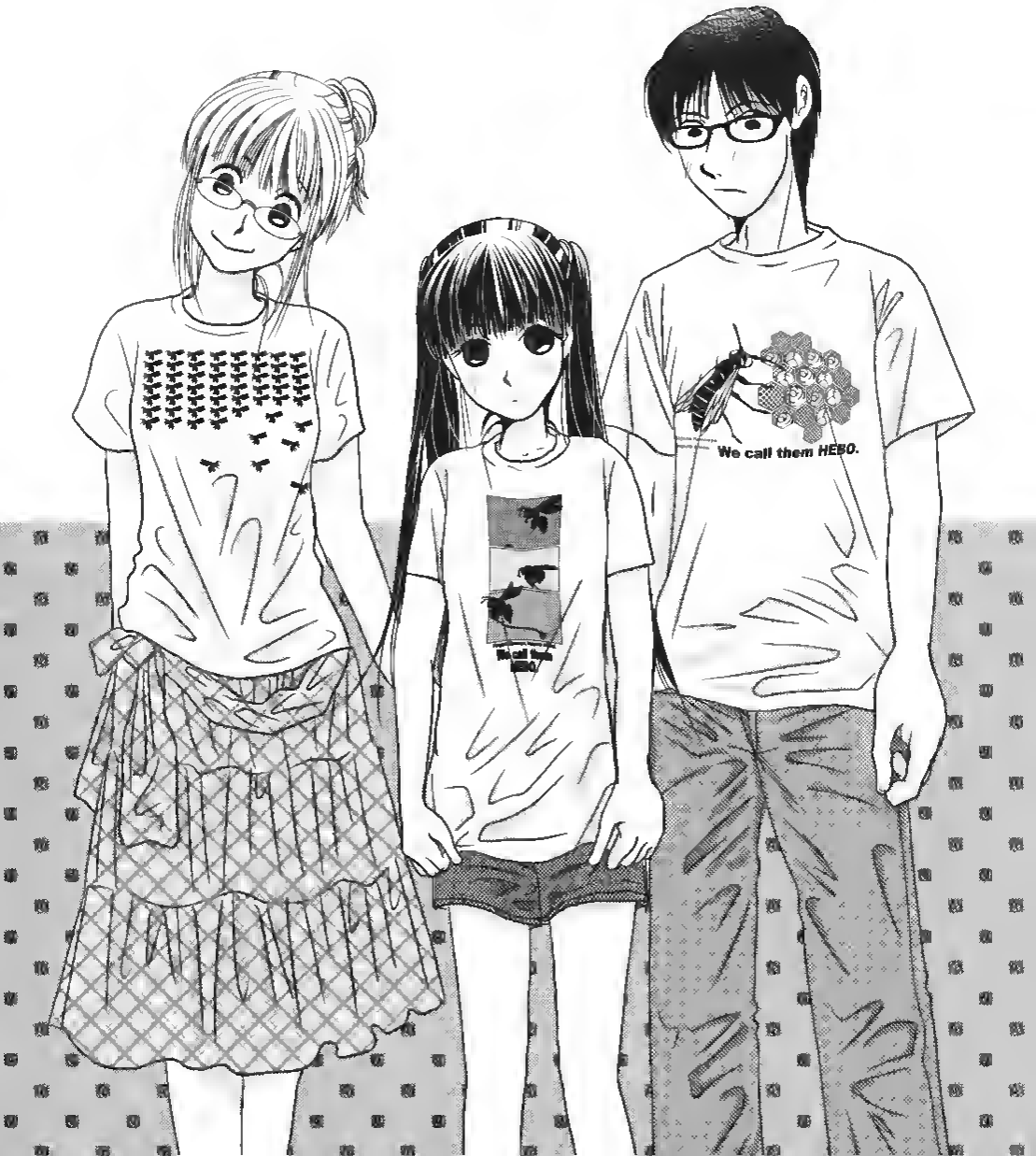
Chapter 20 - Have a Good Wasp Time



WHY?
WHY?!
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE CARE THAT THERE'S WASPS BUZZING AROUND EVERYWHERE?
OH, THAT'S A GOOD QUES-TION!
GREAT, THANKS BUT...
GOOD JOB PAYING ATTENTION TO THAT. YOU HAVE A GEOGRAPHER'S MIND!
IF WE WERE SOMEWHERE LIKE OASIS 21 IN SAKAE, THERE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT COMPLAINTS. HOWEVER, HERE IN KUSHIHARA, NO ONE SEEMS TO MIND.
Oasis 21
Main square of Sakae, Nagoya

ONE WEEK AGO ...

I HAD BEEN THINKING OF EATING LARVAE, AND THEN I REMEMBERED HEBO.

TODAY WE'VE COME TO THE KUSHIHARA WASP FESTIVAL.

LOCAL SPECIALITY KUSHIHARA, GIFU

GRILLED WASP MOCHI

THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION AT ALL!

"HEBO"?

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CHUBU, EATING LARVAE IS VERY POPULAR.

Vespula spp.

YELLOW-JACKET WASPS. THEY'RE ALSO CALLED "HEBO", "SUGARE", "TAKABU", AND "JIBACHI".

WASP FESTIVAL

NATION-WIDE WASP HIVE CONTEST

THE MAIN EVENT IS THE WASP HIVE CONTEST, WHERE THEY COMPETE FOR THE LARGEST HIVE OF THE YEAR.

BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, IT'S ALSO A POPULAR EVENT FOR ENTHUSIASTS ACROSS JAPAN.

THERE'S A "WASP FESTIVAL"?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE "WASP FESTIVAL" IS COMING UP.

THEY HOLD IT EVERY AUTUMN IN KUSHI-HARA.

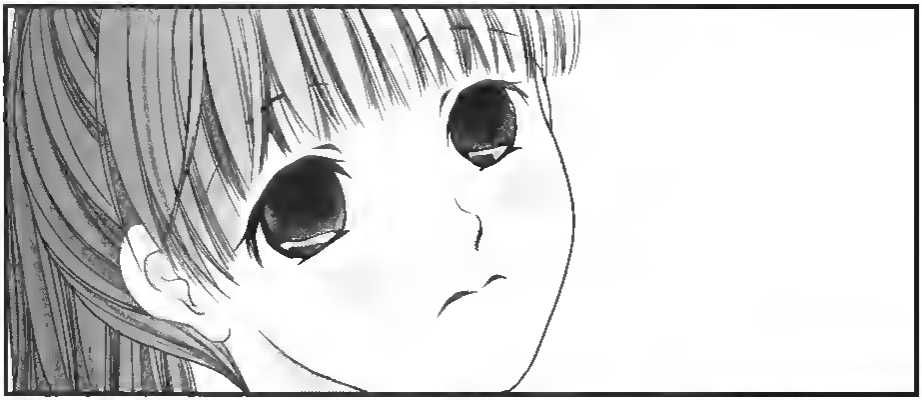
I'M GOING.
YES!
WANT TO GO SEE IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, YELLOW-JACKETS? MY GRANDPA USED TO RAISE THOSE.
WHAT'S UP? HEBO?
OKAY, LET'S ALL TAKE A TRIP TO THE WASP FESTIVAL!
SFX- YAHH!
AND THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP HERE.
KUSHIHARA
ENA
DISTRICT
GIFU
PREFECTURE
KURURIN! DON'T WE HAVE A RIGHT TO COMPLAIN?
WE'RE ON A VACATION TRIP, BUT THESE ADULTS DRAGGED US ALONG WITH THEIR CRAZY HOBBIES!

WHERE'S MARU-MIYA-KUN?
CULTURE DAY SALE. HE SAID HE HAS TO WORK ALL DAY TODAY.
ON A LEISURE TRIP, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO TAKE US PLACES THAT WE WOULD ENJOY?
..., KURURI, YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
?
LIKE CLOTHES SHOPPING AT A DEPARTMENT STORE, OR A FANCY HOTEL WITH A CAKE BUFFET.
スーパー まるまる
CULTURE DAY SALE
SORRY, WE'RE SOLD OUT!
Culture Day Sale...
I'LL MAKE SURE TO TAKE YOU TO THE SALE ON SUNDAY, OKAY?
NOW NOW, NATSUKI, AT LEAST EAT SOME-THING.
OOH, GRILLED MOCHI!
*GOHEI-MOCHI
I KNEW THIS HAD TO BE OUR FIRST STOP AT THE WASP FESTIVAL.
IT'S SO POPULAR THAT THEY ALWAYS SELL OUT BEFORE NOON.
AT LEAST THIS WON'T BETRAY ME.
MMM IT'S GOOD!

HOW IS THIS WASP MOCHI? I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
THEY USE GROUND-UP WASP LARVAE INTO THE SAUCE.
CAN YOU FEEL IT IN THE TEXTURE?
Are there wasp legs?
SFX: BLEH!
TAKASUGI-KUN!
MIYOSHI-SAN!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG! I BROUGHT STUDENTS FROM MY SEMINAR THIS YEAR.
NICE TO MEET YOU
THIS IS KOSAKA-SAN, FROM MY DEPARTMENT.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I STUDY BEES AND WASPS.
YOU WERE FINALLY ABLE TO BECOME A TEACHER.
DID YOU NOT THINK I COULD?
Sob
AND THEN, THERE'S ...
KURURI!

YES, SHE'S MY FAMILY.

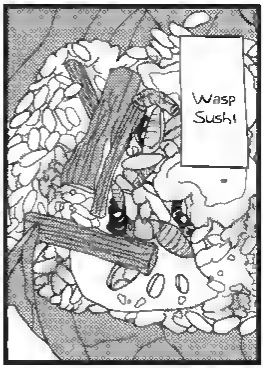
THIS IS MIYOSHI-SAN, WHO HELPED ME OUT A LOT HERE IN KUSHIHARA.
AHH, THIS IS THE GIRL YOU TOOK IN?
SFX. BOW

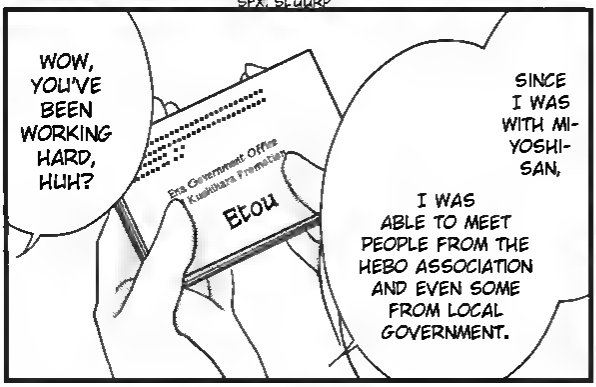


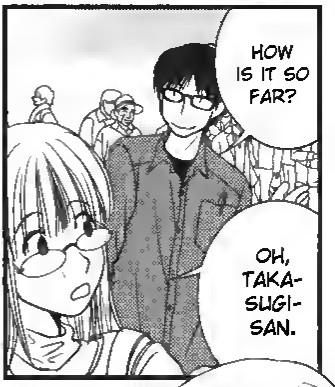
There's a farmer's market
?

Hives are brought from all over Japan
The hives are put into boxes, and stored in a green-house
Some of the wasps escape and fly around the grounds
IN THE PAST, THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE GREEN-HOUSES.
REALLY?
CUT IT OUT
Hive weigh-in
The heaviest hive wins
Yellow-jackets are relatively peaceful, and rarely sting people
Wealthy Specialty Researcher
Kosaka Rina
However, they will sting you if you startle them or brush them away So if a wasp lands on you, let it leave on its own
I'll take it once the wasp is gone
.....

Even the rice looks like larvae.
Kushihara Specialty Pork soup with miso and konjac
SFX. SLURP


Wasp Sushi


WOW, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD, HUH?
Eto
SINCE I WAS WITH MIYOSHI-SAN,
I WAS ABLE TO MEET PEOPLE FROM THE HEBO ASSOCIATION AND EVEN SOME FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT.


HOW IS IT SO FAR?
OH, TAKASUGI-SAN.

WE'LL BEGIN SELLING THE WASP HIVES SOON, SO PLEASE HEAD TO THE FRONT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.
THAT'S THE TRUE CHALLENGE OF WORKING IN THE FIELD.

YES, YOU CAN EVEN BUY THE HIVES THAT PLACED IN THE CONTEST.
THEY'RE SELLING HIVES?

THIS IS JUST THE FIRST STEP.
NOW IT'S A MATTER OF WHETHER I CAN BUILD A RELATIONSHIP AND HOW MUCH I CAN LEARN FROM THEM.

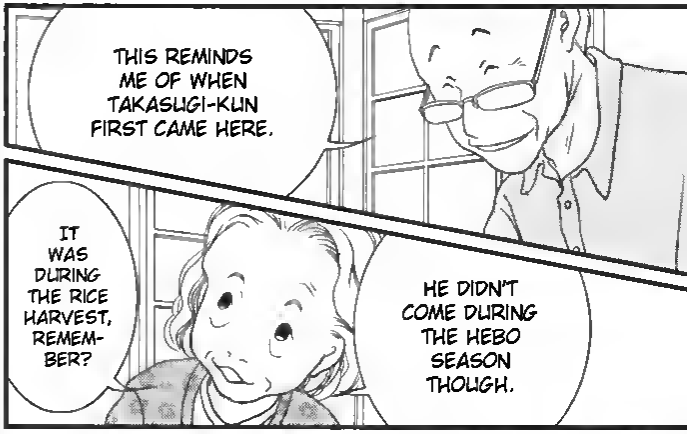
EATING FRESH WASPS WITH RICE IS REALLY DELICIOUS.
I WANT TO MAKE IT FOR THE GROUP.
HMM, I... YEAH, I REMEMBER HOW TO MAKE IT.
MAYBE I'LL BUY A HIVE HERE.
AND?
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DISMANTLE THE HIVE? ON THE VERANDA AGAIN?
Tomato Daifuku
Once the wasps are unconscious, Cut up the hive by layers
Light the smokescreen
This knocks out the wasps
Dismantling a hive
Smokescreen (Bought at the festival)
Super Angry Insects
Hive
BUZZZZ
SFX AHHH
SFX BUZZZZ
ねぁぁ
Fire Department?
There's a fire!
...UH, KAYAMA-SAN, YOU WERE THE ONE THAT MESSED IT UP.
SO ALL THE WASPS GOT AWAY, AND THE NEIGHBORS COMPLAINED. SOMEONE EVEN CALLED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.
HE MESSED UP WITH THE SMOKE,

ABSO-LUTELY NO WAY
KAYAMA-SAN, YOU GUYS LIVE IN A HOUSE, SO HOW ABOUT THIS TIME...
STILL, AN APART-MENT ISN'T IDEAL...
THEN HOW ABOUT COMING OVER TO OUR PLACE, TAKASUGI-KUN?
三好
MIYOSHI
Wasp Hive cut into layers
Are you sure? With the students, it'll be a crowd.
Of course, call them over

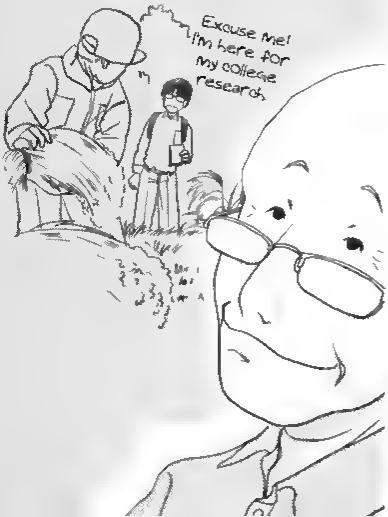
JUST STOP IT ALREADY
YES! WE'RE GOING TO EXTRACT THE LARVAE WITH TWEEZERS, ONE BY ONE.
NO WAY... NO WAY...
HE'S BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME.
A HA HA HA
Here are the tweezers we have.
Thank you
THIS IS YOUR FIRST DAY, KOSAKA.
AH NO, I WAS JUST THINKING THAT TAKASUGI-SAN IS AMAZING FOR DOING FIELD RESEARCH, EVEN NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG, KOSAKA?
SFX: WHOOSH
PLEASE ALLOW THIS UNWORTHY KOSAKA TO ATTEMPT IT!
That girl's so serious
IS THERE ANYONE THAT WANTS TO GIVE THIS A SHOT?
YES, AND THE FIRST DAY IS CRITICAL!

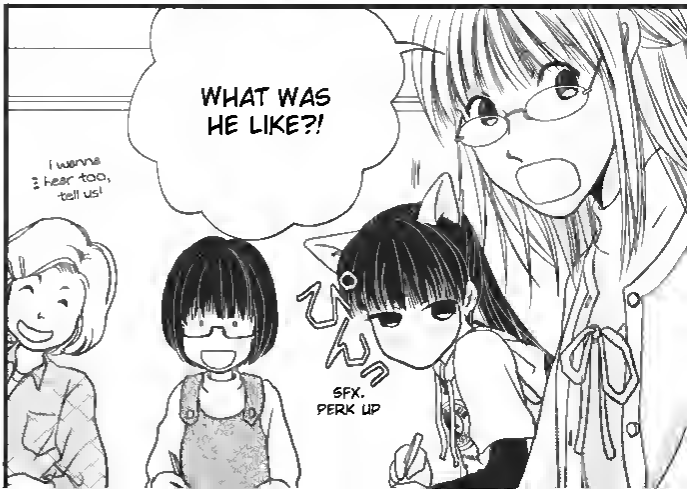
SFX. GULP
ごくっ
HERE I GO!
She used too much force and crushed it
SFX YANK
ぶりっ
GROSS
1 KG
¥10,000
!?
WAIT, HOW MUCH DID THIS COST?
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! I JUST CRUSHED SOMETHING SO VALUABLE!
AROUND ¥10,000 PER KG.
EVERYONE CRUSHES ONE OR TWO, DON'T WORRY.
SFX. SHAKE SHAKE
Not good with expensive things
じり、じり、
THEN LET'S JUST GO BUY BEEF!
THAT WEIGHT INCLUDES THE HIVE, SO THAT MEANS THIS IS EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THAT HIGH-GRADE MATSUTAKA BEEF?
Not sad, wasps

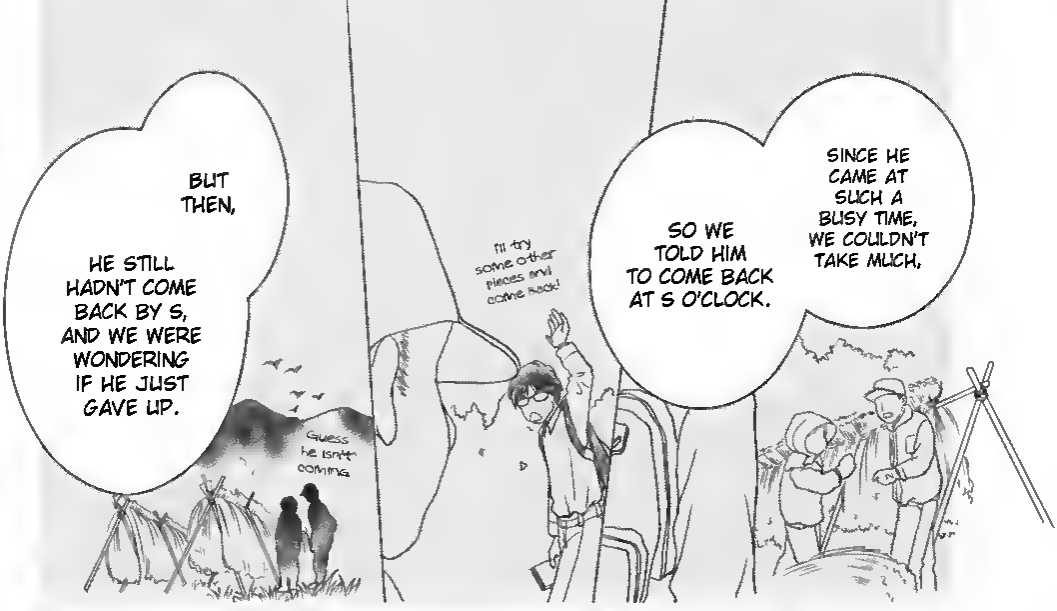
SFX. CHATTER
わいわい
30 Minutes later
HOW CAN THEY ALL JUST GO ALONG WITH THIS?

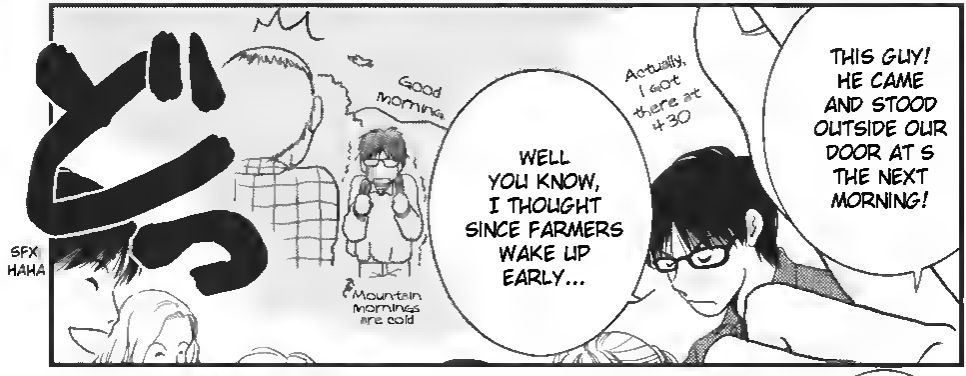

THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN TAKASUGI-KUN FIRST CAME HERE.
IT WAS DURING THE RICE HARVEST, REMEMBER?
HE DIDN'T COME DURING THE HEBO SEASON THOUGH.

LET'S SEE, IT WAS AUTUMN...
AND A THIN COLLEGE KID CAME WANDERING UP TO ASK ME A BUNCH OF QUESTIONS.

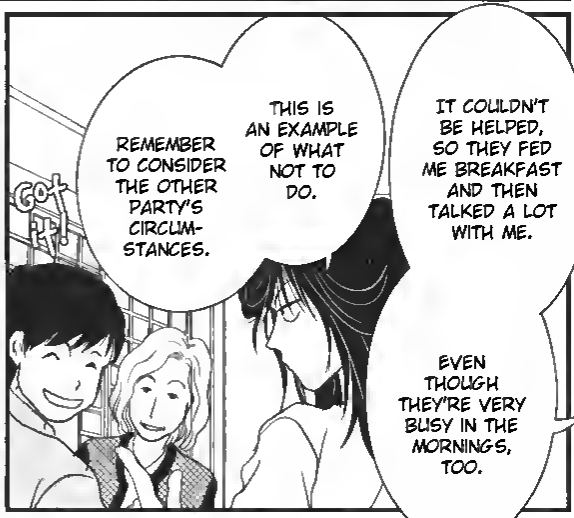

Excuse me! I'm here for my college research.


WHAT WAS HE LIKE?!
I wanna hear too, tell us!
SFX. PERK UP


SINCE HE CAME AT SUCH A BUSY TIME, WE COULDN'T TAKE MUCH,
SO WE TOLD HIM TO COME BACK AT 5 O'CLOCK.
I'll try some other places and come back!
BUT THEN,
HE STILL HADN'T COME BACK BY 5, AND WE WERE WONDERING IF HE JUST GAVE UP.
Guess he isn't coming

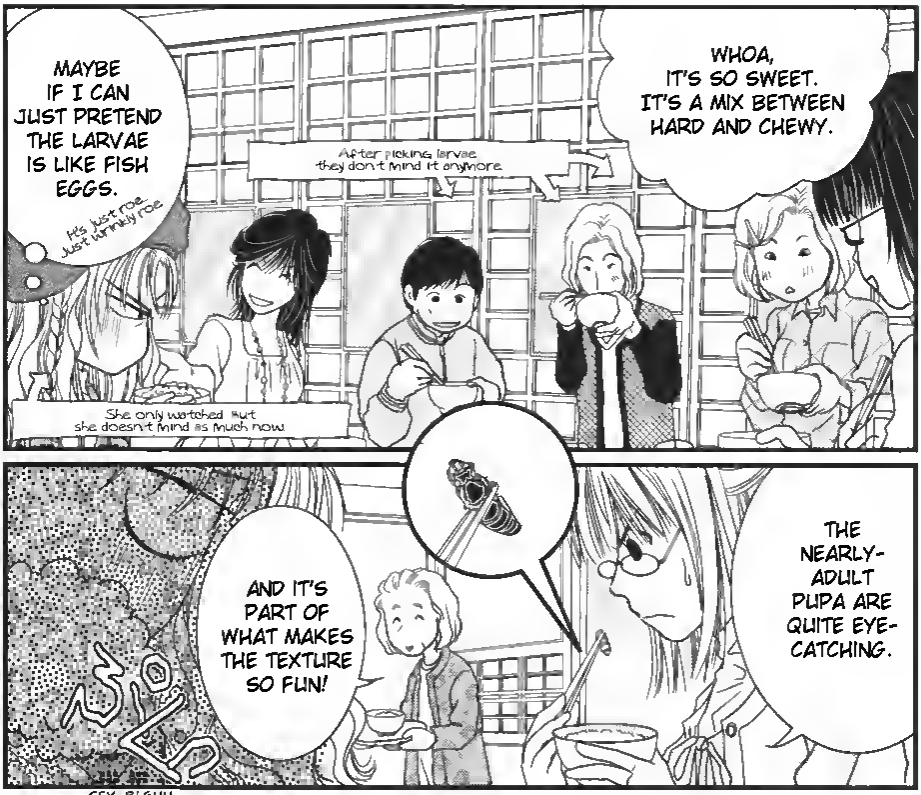

THIS GUY! HE CAME AND STOOD OUTSIDE OUR DOOR AT 5 THE NEXT MORNING!
Actually, I got there at 4:30
WELL YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT SINCE FARMERS WAKE UP EARLY...
Good morning
Mountain mornings are cold
SFX HAHA

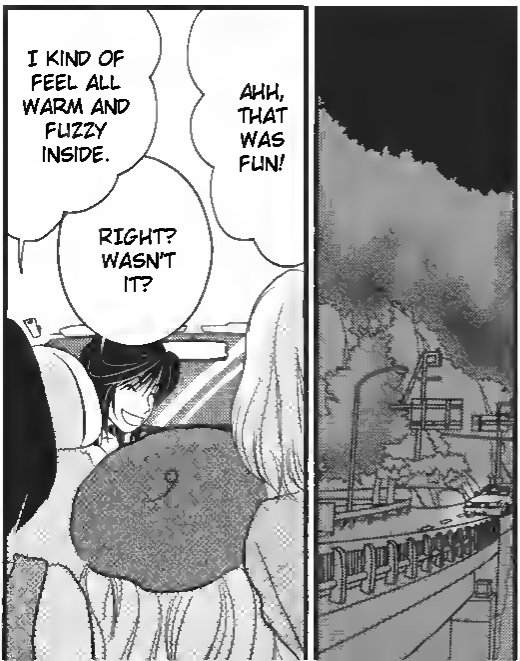
.....
Hey don't make me your lesson material!


IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, SO THEY FED ME BREAKFAST AND THEN TALKED A LOT WITH ME.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO.
REMEMBER TO CONSIDER THE OTHER PARTY'S CIRCUM-STANCES.
Got it!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE VERY BUSY IN THE MORNINGS, TOO.

NEXT WEEK, SHE'S BRINGING THE GRANDKIDS OVER TO VISIT!
OH SHE'S STILL ALIVE, SHE JUST WENT AND GOT MARRIED IS ALL.
BLUSH
UFUFU
PICKING LARVAE AND CHATTING TOGETHER IS SO NICE...
REMINDS ME OF OUR DAUGHTER.
DID YOUR DAUGHTER...
EH?
OH, ARE THEY COMING FOR THE LARVAE RICE?
WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE WASP NESTS AGAIN WHEN THEY COME.
YEAH, SINCE THEIR MOTHER SEEMED TO ENJOY IT SO MUCH.
OUR GRANDKIDS ARE GREAT AT REMOVING THE LARVAE NOW, EVEN THE YOUNGEST WHO'S ONLY FIVE.
YES, SINCE IT'S A SEASONAL DISH, THE KIDS LOOK FORWARD TO IT EVERY YEAR.
Gathering together
Bonding time
A reason to visit home
WOW, THEY'RE QUITE GIFTED.
THEY WEREN'T SCARED AT ALL?
I SEE.

I THINK THAT'S PLENTY,
NOW LET'S GO BOIL THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE RICE?
IT'S ALREADY DONE.
RIP
KOSAKA-SAN, DO YOU WANT TO GO WATCH TOO?
Please show me how to make it!
AH! YES!
Wasp Larvae Rice Recipe
It's pretty much maze gohan
Picked wasp larvae
Julienned ginger
Soy sauce
Sake
Sugar
Shaved burdock
Change the amounts depending on the taste
Mix it into the freshly cooked rice
Even if you show this, do you really think people will actually try to make it?


MAYBE IF I CAN JUST PRETEND THE LARVAE IS LIKE FISH EGGS.
It's just rice. Just wriggly rice.
After picking larvae they don't mind it anymore.
WHOA, IT'S SO SWEET. IT'S A MIX BETWEEN HARD AND CHEWY.
She only watched but she doesn't mind as much now.
AND IT'S PART OF WHAT MAKES THE TEXTURE SO FUN!
THE NEARLY-ADULT PUPA ARE QUITE EYE-CATCHING.
SFX BLEHH

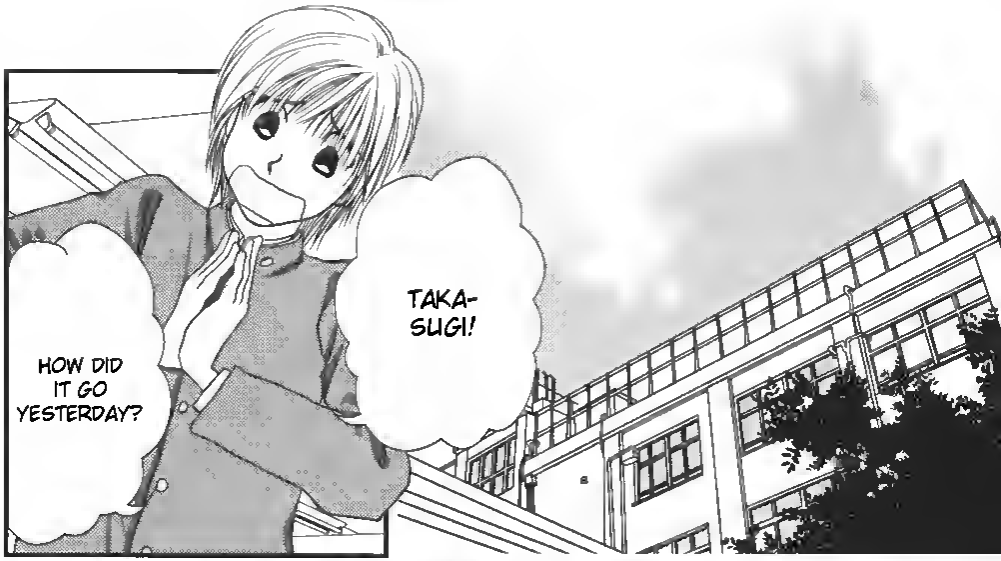

I KIND OF FEEL ALL WARM AND FUZZY INSIDE.
AHH, THAT WAS FUN!
RIGHT? WASN'T IT?

This rice is even more expensive than beef...
Thank you very much!
Thanks for the meal

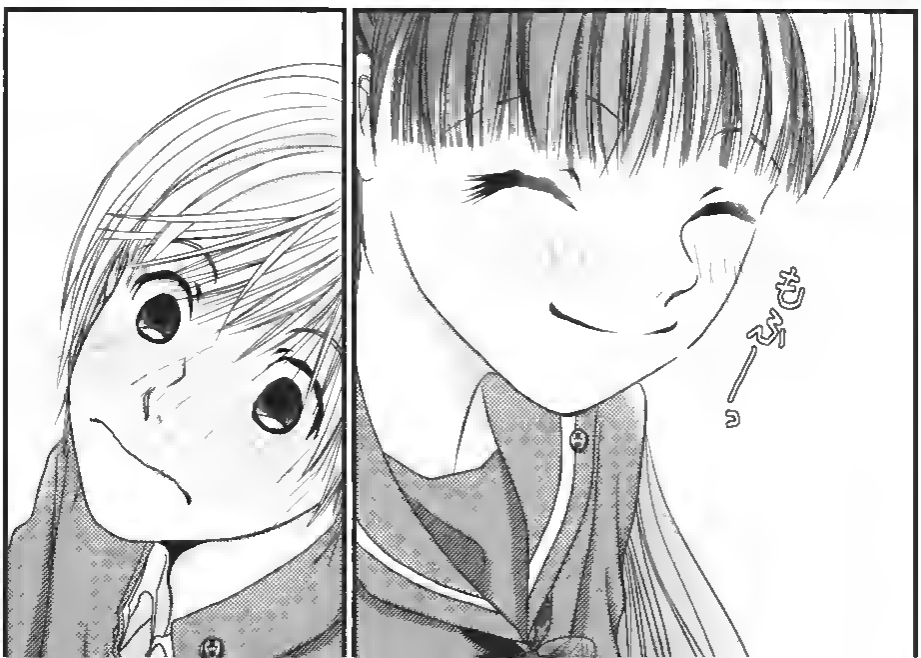
ボボボボ
!?
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE WASP LARVAE IS SO NUTRIT-IOUS
JUST LOOK AT KOSAKA, SHE'S DRIVING WITHOUT GETTING SLEEPY AT ALL
SFX: NIGHT OF FIRE
KAYAMA-SENSEI, TODAY I'VE DECIDED THAT I NEED TO REDOUBLE MY RESEARCH EFFORTS.
I WANT TO BE LIKE TAKASUGI-SAN... NO, MAYBE IT'S PRESUMP-TUOUS,
BUT I WANT TO RIVAL HIM.
SFX: ZOOM
WOW, KOSAKA-SAN JUST TOOK OFF.
I'LL TRY MY BEST ANYWAY!!
...
THAT'S A NICE MINDSET, BUT WHAT IF YOU CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO HIS LEVEL?

Sakura Kaboom
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS SQUASH?
LET'S USE THE WASP RICE LEFTOVERS FOR LUNCH
WE ALSO HAVE KUSHIHARA SAUSAGE AND... SQUASH.
Takasu
高杉
LET'S TRY BOILING IT!
SOUNDS GREAT
REGIONAL
Seasonal
ADVENTURE
Hand-made
LOCAL PRODUCE
Memories
PERFECT? IDEAL? COMPLETE?
AMAZING, TOMORROW'S BENTOU IS
IT WASN'T BOTTOM PRICE THOUGH...
STILL..
SFX BADUMP THUMP

YES! EXACTLY!
IT WAS REALLY FUN.
COMPARING THAT TO THE COST OF THE INGREDIENTS, I THINK YOU COULD CALL IT "PROFITABLE".
WHEN YOU TAKE EVERYTHING INTO CONSIDERATION, YOU CAN FURTHER INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF JOY AND HAPPINESS YOU BRING.
NOT ONLY CAN YOU MAKE MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS THAT ARE TIED TO FOOD, EVERY PART OF THE PROCESS GOES INTO THE MEAL.
BUT TODAY WASN'T ABOUT PRICE EQUALING VALUE.
I USED TO THINK MEALS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY PLANNED OUT.
SFX: CRASH
SFX: TREMBLING
... OKAY.
ONCE IN A WHILE, MAYBE.


TAKA-
SUGI!
HOW DID
IT GO
YESTERDAY?

Remembering
HOW
WAS IT?
HOW WAS THE
FESTIVAL?
AND
HAJIME-
KUN, HE
WAS MAD
THE ENTIRE
DAY.
YOU KNOW,
DAD SAID
WE SHOULD
HAVE A MANLY
COMPETITION
BY STOCKING
THE MATSUTAKE
MUSHROOMS.
I EVEN HAD
TO WEAR THE
BUNNY SUIT,
YOU KNOW.


にぃ〜っ

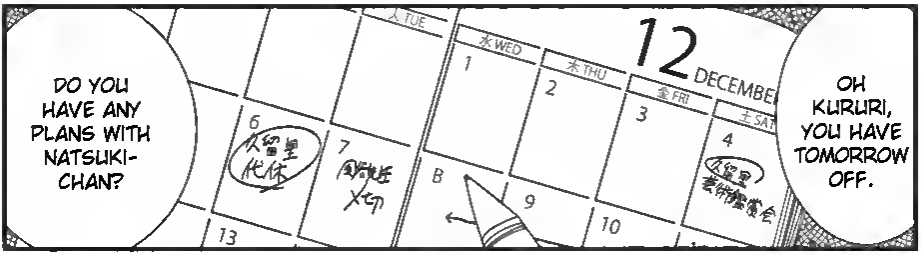
SFX:
GRIN

RICE FROM THE FESTI-VAL?
WANT TO TRY SOME
AWW, I REALLY WANTED TO GO TOO! WHAT KIND OF FESTIVAL WAS IT? ACTUALLY, ANY KIND WOULD BE FINE. FES-TI-VALLL!
O-INARI-SAN?
CHIRASHI SUSHI?
WHAT? A FESTI-VAL?
WHAT? FESTIVAL FOOD? I'LL EAT IT, I'LL EAT IT!
OH WAIT, THERE'S ALSO... BLACK SESAME?
I LIKE MAKI ROLLS MORE THOUGH.
OUR NEIGHBORS DO THAT FOR THE TEMPLE GATHERINGS.
AH! BUR-DOCK RICE?
.....
THIS BLACK STUFF...

SFX: GYAA

Isolated from class and eating on the roof again
Take-sugi! I'll still eat it!
ISN'T HARUCCHI SUPPOSED TO HAVE A "GEOGRAPHER'S MIND?
IT'S FINE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, BUT YOU OBVIOUSLY SHOULDN'T BRING IT TO SCHOOL
LISTEN KUU, YOU CAN'T GET CORRUPTED BY HARU-CCHI

SFX: BURNING
KOSAKA-SAN, YOU SEEM... FIRED UP.
YES, THANKS TO THE WASP RICE!


DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS WITH NATSUKI-CHAN?
12 DECEMBER
OH KURURI, YOU HAVE TOMORROW OFF.

NATSUKI-CHAN SAID SHE'S GOING SHOPPING WITH HER GRAND-MA.
OH, THEN HOW ABOUT YOU?
I HAVE PLANS AT 6:30 A.M.
WITH MARU-KUN.
WHAT?

A.M.? WHERE? WHY?
YANAGI-BASHI CENTRAL MARKET.
FOR A
DATE.

- On page 15 the ビっ sound effect works for both Miyoshi's shock in the flashback as well as the group's laughter. Shok tnak. Yanahara-sensei
- Yanagidashi Central Market in Nagoya is not to be confused with the Yanagidashi Rengo Market in Fukuoka. (I was a confused dummy for a bit)
- The Japanese title of this chapter is 'Have a good ヘぼタイム'
  I opted to translate it fairly one to one and keep the slightly odd phrasing
- Have a good wasp day

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